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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03

DRC-01 /085 W
---------- 073256
R 241345Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9217
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 6807

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: SENV, PFOR, SCUL, BE
SUBJ: SPOKANE EXPO 1974

REF: BRUSSELS 6738

1. FOLLOWING HENDERSON'S DEPARTURE WE WERE AGAIN IN TOUCH WITH COOLS TO RUGE EXPEDITIOUS FOLLOW-UP ON APPROACH TO BELGIAN INDUSTTRY ON BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPO.

2. ON BEING INFORMED ACTION DEPENDED ON DECISION BY MINISTER OF ECONOMICS, WE ALSO GOT IN TOUCH AGAIN WITH BARBASON TO URGE THAT COOLS RECEIVE SUCH AUTHORITY WITHOUT DELAY. BARBASON ASSURED US THAT IN SPITE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH PETROLEUM CRISIS,HE WOULD TRY TO REACH MINISTERIMMEDIATELY AND AGAIN PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE BELGIAN PARTICIPATION.

3. WHEN ON NOVEMBER 23 WE INFORMED COOLS OF FAVORABLE DECISION BY GERMANY AND FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN THE NETHERLANDS HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION AND SIAD THAT MINISTER OF ECOMOMICS HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET FAVORIING BELGIAN PARTICIPATION. HE EXPECTED THIS RECOMMENDATION
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TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET EITHER AT NOV. 23 MEETING OR NEXT

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FRIDAY.

4. WE URGED COOLS TO MAKE SURE THAT INFORMATION GERMAN DECISION AND DUTCH POSITION AVAILABLE TO CABINET. WE WERE TOLD IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO GET IT TO CABINET IF PARTICIPATION WERE TO BE CONSIDRED SAME DAY. IF CABINET DISCUSSION POSTPOND, HE WOULD MAKE SURE INFORMATION FORWARDED IN TIME FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING.

5. COOLS EXPRESSED MILD CONCERN TO US THAT THINGS WERE GOING SPACE MIGHT BE EXHAUSTED BEFORE BELGIANS MADE DECISION. IN ADDITION TO RECENT GERMAN AND DUTCH DEVELOPMENTS, COOLS HAD IMPRESSION (ON WHAT BASIS IS NOT CLEAR) THAT BRITISH WERE MOVING IN POSITIVE DIRECTION. HE SAID THAT IF BELGIANS PARTICIPATED THEY WOULD STILL WANT 4,000 SQUARE METERS FOR THE BELGIAN EXHIBIT.

6. FINALLY WE HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH PULINX MANAGING DIRECTOR OF FEDERATION OF BELGIAN ENTERPREISE URGING THAT BELGIAN INDUSTRY SUPPORT GOVERNMENT DIDICISON TO PARTICIPATE IN SPOKANE. PULINCKX, OF COURSE FROM EARLIER HENDERSON VISIT WAS ALREADY FULLY INFORMED ON EXPOSITION, AND PROMISED TO SUPPORT BELGIAN PARTICIPATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS.BOOCHEVER

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